

Message Text

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51

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

ACDA-19 AEC-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 220749Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3705

INFO DOD/ISA/FMRA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

COMNAVELECSYSCOM WASHDC

CINCPACFLT

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COMNAVELECSYSCOM FOR PME-119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: OMEGA - LEFTWING LEADER TIPS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

APPROVAL FOR OMEGA

REF: CANBERRA 3722

1. AUSTRALIAN LEFTWING POLITICIAN BILL HARTLEY IS REPORTED IN THE JULY 22 EDITION OF THE AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER TO HAVE STATED IN MELBOURNE THAT HE HAS "SOUND" INFORMATION THAT THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WHICH HAS PREPARED ITS REPORT ON OMEGA WILL RECOMMEND GOA APPROVAL OF A STATION IN AUSTRALIA. HARTLEY'S INFORMATION IS USED IN THIS ARTICLE TO SUPPORT A CALL FOR OPPOSITION BY LABOR UNIONS AND OTHERS (E.G., STOP OMEGA COMMITTEE OF VICTORIA) TO OPPOSE ACCEPTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION.

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2. ACCORDING TO REPORTER WHO INTERVIEWED HARTLEY, HARTLEY BELIEVES

THAT THE LEFTWING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ALP WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE OPPOSING ACCEPTANCE OF A POSITIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. HARTLEY IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED "THE COMMITTEE APPARENTLY HAS NOT ANSWERED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE OMEGA BASE WOULD BE LINKED TO NUCLEAR CAPACITY AND THUS BE INCONSISTENT WITH OTHER FOREIGN POLICY STANCES OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT." AGAIN, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, THE ALP FEDERAL EXECUTIVE WHICH MEETS ABOUT SIX TIMES A YEAR WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER APPROVAL OF OMEGA IS CONSISTENT WITH PARTY POLICY.

3. COMMENT: ASSUMING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF OMEGA, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE OF THE ALP WILL LIKEWISE HAVE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED STATION. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ONLY AT THE PRESENT TIME WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT. AT THIS STAGE, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO THEM WHAT COURSE THE PRIME MINISTER WILL TAKE IN OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

INFORMATION THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON OMEGA WILL RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHING A STATION IN AUSTRALIA IS CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S STAFF (PARA 5, REFTEL).
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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